

A trip into Ancient History through 230 million year old dinosaur prints

LOCATION: Santisteban del Puerto (Jaén)

LENGTH: 1'22"

SUMMARY: In Santisteban del Puerto (Jaen) there are 26 mysterious dinosaur prints. The latest investigations have shed some light on them, though it is still not known which species they belong to; however, we can tell that it was a predecessor of the poposaurus or the theropod, dinosaur species that walked on two legs. The prints are unique in terms of their age – they are 230 million years old – and their shape.

VTR:

Inside this building are 26 preserved dinosaur prints found in Santisteban del Puerto (Jaén). A recent study by Jaén University has produced new information about these tracks, which are the only ones of their kind in the world.

Matias Reolid
Palaeontologist at Jaen University

"Their shape has not been described until now and they are also quite old. They date from 230 million years ago, from the Triassic era."

The Triassic era is the period during which dinosaurs first appeared, so the prints must belong to a predecessor of the dinosaurs, which left unusual markings. Their irregularity has made it more difficult to interpret them but it has confirmed that the sea temporarily reached this area.

Matias Reolid
Palaeontologist at Jaen University

"The area was partially submerged. They half swam, occasionally managing to reach the bottom, just scratching it."

The prints have been scanned and, thanks to 3D technology, they will be available to the scientific community.

Francisco Javier Cardenal
Professor of Cartographic Engineering

"To study the prints, simulations can be done and measurements can be directly taken in the laboratory, but also a document database with regard to the conservation and preservation of this archaeological site."

Whilst it is not known what the animal that produced the prints looked like, as a predecessor of the theropod and the poposaurus, it may well resemble them.

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